Number of

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The minister, however, said it was feared that the economic recession and the coronavirus would disrupt the labour markets of the major employer countries, leaving many workers unemployed.

The number of returnee workers, however, has not become alarming, he said. "This is due to the roles of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he added.

He said, "According to the estimates of the past years, about 60,000 workers have gone abroad from Bangladesh every month. From January to August, 2019, 4.60 lakh workers went abroad. But by August 2020, only 1.76 lakh workers have gone abroad. This is because from April to August this year, no worker could go abroad."

The number of Bangladeshi workers abroad is more than one crore. Many had to return home because of the pandemic. Brac's migration program estimates that the number of people returning to the country would be around 2.75 lakh if those who were stranded before April are taken into account.

The minister also highlighted the rehabilitation of returning workers, saying, "Initiatives have been taken for the social and economic rehabilitation of the returning workers."

Emergency relief assistance of Tk 13 crore has been provided to the workers abroad to deal with the crisis. Initiatives have been taken to bring the workers back to the country and for their reintegration after return, the minister said.

He further said, "Despite our sincere efforts in recent times, our workers in some countries have fallen victim to undesirable issues. Many of them did not go abroad legally. Legal and punitive actions have been taken against those involved in this process."

The minister also said that the ministry is working to retain the labour market and find new markets in the future. "The ministry is working to send skilled workers abroad as soon as the situation returns to normal," he said.

He also demanded to set Tk 100 as coronavirus testing fee for expatriate workers instead of Tk 200.

Wholesale

FROM PAGE 3

guaranteed right and any laws, rules, regulations or orders are subordinate to the constitution. The constitution itself puts certain restrictions on freedom of expression in the interests of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. These apply to everyone, including the public servants."

He further noted that government servants do have certain obligations to comply with, for example, "In terms of not disclosing confidential or secret information, as per the terms and conditions of the positions they officially hold."

However, "Any wholesale restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression beyond the terms and conditions of the official positions of government employees will not be constitutional. If wholesale restrictions become effective, the constitution itself will be redundant," Manzill Murshid observed.

Power Grid Company of Bangladesh and North South University recently signed a contract for a research-based work to build South Asia's first cyber-physical system testbed, to help thwart possible cyber attacks on the national power transmission network in advance. PHOTO: COLLECTED

TK 40 LAKH BRIBERY CASE

Suspended ACC director seeks HC bail again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Anti-Corruption Commission director Khandaker Enamul Basir has again sought bail from the High Court in a case filed over transaction of Tk 40 lakh as bribe.

Enamul Basir, now in jail, has recently filed a bail petition with the HC through his lawyer Zahidul Alam.

Zahidul told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman may hold hearing on the bail petition today. He refused to say the grounds on which Enamul sought bail.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this newspaper that Enamul sought bail on the ground that he is sick and has been suffering in jail for a long period of time.

Earlier on March 10, anther HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam rejected a bail petition filed by Enamul Basir in the case.

The HC bench also directed the lower court concerned to finish trial proceedings of the case against the former ACC official.

Govt extends

FROM PAGE 3

Education boards expected to start online admission on May 10, but they could not do so as results of SSC and equivalent exams were published on May 31.

Meanwhile, a section of guardians yesterday demanded that the government should fix the highest ceiling of readmission fee for class XII.

Obhibhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, in a statement said in absence of any guideline some of the colleges are charging Tk 9,000 to Tk 20,000 for readmission.

"These colleges are fixing their admission fees, monthly tuition fees and others at whim in absence of any guideline," said the statement signed by forum president Ziaul Kabir Dulu.

Education Minister Dipu Moni requested all school authorities to be humane towards guardians in tuition fee collection during coronavirus crisis. But they are not abiding by the request, said the statement.

The forum also welcomed government move to fix the admission fees for class XI.

BNP demands

FROM PAGE 3

On March 25, the 76-year-old BNP chief was released from jail for six months upon an executive order.

Nazrul said Khaleda has been staying at her home with serious illness, despite various restrictions imposed by the government. "She now needs advanced treatment abroad. She was treated at a hospital [BSMMU] for a long time, but could not recover."

He said it was the dream of freedom fighters in 1971 to not only liberate the country, but also build a democratic, humane and prosperous Bangladesh. "But unfortunately, after so many years of our independence, we're seeing one-party rule, and military and civilian dictatorship in the country. So, true democracy has not yet been properly established."

The BNP leader called upon leaders and activists of Mohila Dal to unite and join the struggle to "restore" democracy.

Construction to take

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But the delay in implementing the project -- mainly for finalising the design, appointing the consultant and complexity over the tender process -- forced the project authorities to revise its deadline twice and cost once.

The Ecnec had approved the project in November 2012 setting the cost at Tk 849 crore and deadline at June 2015.

The deadline was deferred twice -- June 2019 and June 2023. The project cost went up to Tk 1,106 crore mainly due to changes to the design, and rise in prices of construction materials.

However, the BR in July 2018 signed a contract with Indian companies Afcons and Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited (KPTL) for implementing the project at a cost of Tk 1,393.78 crore, an increase of Tk 287.78 crore than the amount mentioned in the revised DPP.

Meantime, the BIWTA in November 2018 changed the categories of several rivers at different points in a bid to save those and increase their navigability. The organisation upgraded the category of this point of the Turag river to second from third, meaning the clearance under any bridge to be built there should be higher.

The move came after the project contractors had started the construction work.

To construct a bridge across a river, any authority has to get consent of the BIWTA for both horizontal and vertical clearance. The vertical clearance refers to the distance between standard high water level of a river and the main navigation span of a bridge.

The construction work of Tongi Bridge under the project remained suspended since April last year following objection from the BIWTA.

Project Director Afzal Hossain said, "The problem has been solved. The Prime Minister's Office helped solving it. Now the clearance under the new bridge would be two metres more than the existing bridge and the BIWTA has given consent to it."

He said they would revise the project again as the contract value was higher than the DPP cost. Besides, they were redesigning the Tongi Bridge and its adjacent portion and thus the cost of the project would rise slightly.

"The exact figure [cost escalation] will be known after completion of redesigning, which is expected to be done within this month," Afzal told The Daily Star yesterday.

Contacted, BIWTA Chairman Commodore Golam Sadeq said they gave consent to the plan "considering all aspects".

Asked whether they would have to extend the deadline further, Afzal said, "Redesigning of the bridge is taking around six months. Besides, Covid has slowed down the project work. So, we have to extend the deadline."

Till August, the project has witnessed 35.5 percent progress.

No submission

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COMMITMENT FOR 27 LAKH TONNES OF FOOD GRAINS

Food and Civil Supply Minister Phani Bhushan Majumdar says in Dhaka today that the government has so far received firm commitment of 27 lakh tonnes of food grains from abroad as against the annual deficit of 30 lakh tonnes for the current year.

MALEK'S CA MEMBERSHIP CANCELLED

The membership of Khondakar Abdul Malek as member of Constituent Assembly (Gano Parishad) from Mymensingh has been declared cancelled under Clause Two of Article Three of the Bangladesh Constituent Assembly Members Order 1972 as he was expelled from the party on the ticket of which he had been elected.

SOURCES: September 11, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Project Management Assistant (Health), FSN-09

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking application from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Assistant (Health)** in the Office of Population, Health, Nutrition & Education (PHNE).

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: September 24, 2020.

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website:

http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers and www.bdjobs.com

D-106

Actor

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who are known for their productions like Sathghater Kanakori and King Lear. His first film was Laawarish and he had since played significant roles in many other movies including Bashi, Brihonnola, and Chandragrahan, among others.

K S Firoz has also served in the Bangladesh Army, retiring as a Major in 1977.

He left behind his wife and three daughters.

The actor will be buried today at the Banani Military Graveyard after his Namaz-e-Janaza.

Donald Trump

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Gjedde, a member of parliament for the right-wing Progress Party, told Reuters.

Tybring-Gjedde, who nominated Trump for the 2019 award for his diplomatic efforts with North Korea, said he also nominated him this year because of the US troop withdrawal from Iraq.

Last year Trump said he deserved to be awarded the Peace Prize for his work on North Korea and Syria, but he complained he probably would never get the honour. Former President Barack Obama, a nemesis of Trump, won the prize in 2009 just months into his first term in office.

Six killed

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Hasan Sumon identified the victims.

Ziaul Ahsan, officer-in-charge of Ujirpur Model Police Station, said it was raining heavily in the upazila for which the rescue operation was gaining momentum.

"The ambulance has been completely destroyed. It was being cut to get the bodies out of it," he said.

Meanwhile, the accident caused interruption on regular vehicle movement on Dhaka-Barishal Highway and immense suffering to commuters.

Police seized the covered van but the driver managed to escape the scene.

'Masked men' detain Belarus opposition lawyer

AFP, *Minsk*

Masked men detained one of the last high-profile opposition figures still free in Belarus yesterday, his colleagues said, the latest in a series of detentions and expulsions of those leading mass protests.

Maxim Znak, who had worked as a lawyer for jailed presidential hopeful Viktor Babaryko, had been due to participate in a video call but did not show up, instead sending the word "masks" to the group, Babaryko's press service said.

Tension escalates

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His trip to Moscow comes days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Russian capital to attend a meeting of the defence ministers of the eight-nation SCO of which both India and China are members. He also met with his Chinese counterpart, but apparently, produced little result to ease the tensions.

Several Indian media yesterday reported that the the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has occupied the ridge lines and amassed troops on the north bank of the Pangong Lake, where Fingers 4-8 are located, reports The Hindu.

The Finger Area -- a set of eight cliffs jutting out of the mountain range overlooking the Pangong Lake -- has emerged as the hardest part of the disengagement process with little hope of immediate resolution, officials said.

Indian media reports claimed that China had ingressed about 8 km in the Finger area of the north bank. India has not been able to patrol beyond Finger 4 since the April. Earlier, Indian troops could patrol up to Finger 8.

On Monday, the Indian military said Chinese troops fired in the air after attempting to close in on a forward Indian position. But the China military said it was Indian troops who fired the shots, threatening Chinese border guards during a patrol.

In photographs provided by sources in New Delhi from an area south of Pangong Tso taken on Monday, around two dozen Chinese troops with assault rifles hanging off their backs can be seen holding long poles with a curved blade. Reuters could not independently verify the photographs.

MEETINGS YIELD NO RESULTS

Military commanders and diplomats have held several rounds of talks since July to reduce tension, but have made little progress to thin out forces in the arid, high-altitude region that both nations claim and consider as vital to their security.

The latest uptick in tension around the alpine Pangong lake began late last month when Indian forces mobilised to deter Chinese troops, whose movements suggested they aimed to occupy a hilltop India regards as its territory, Indian officials said.

Each nation has urged the other to restrain forward troops who have been locked in a face-off since April, after India said China intruded deep into its side of the LAC.

Beijing denies the charge.

India and China fought a border war in 1962 and continue to lay claim to thousands of square kilometres of territory stretching from the snow deserts of Ladakh in the west to mountain forests in the east.

Also on Tuesday, five Indian youths who went missing from an eastern border state several days ago have been found in China, after the Indian military contacted its Chinese counterpart, an Indian minister said.

10 dead as two trawlers

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half-year-old son Jahid Hossain; Sultana Begum, 40, her grandson Al Mujahid, 3; Majida Begum, 50, and her grandson Anik Mia, 5; Lutfur Nahar, 25, and her two-year-old son Rakibul Hasan. They were from Dharampasha upazila, while another victim Hamida Begum, 50, was from Netrakona Sadar upazila.

The victims, except Hamida, were on their way to their relatives' houses in Netrakona's Barhatta upazila, said locals, adding that the incident was the worst of its kind in the area.

Abdul Wahab managed to swim ashore but his wife Lutfur Nahar and son Rakibul drowned. His five-year-old daughter Monira Akter was missing.

Wahab said when he was standing with Monira, their trawler overturned after being hit by a large vessel. His daughter, who had her arms around his neck, was washed away and he only heard her call "Baba" before that.

Wahab's cousin Mahbub Alam Monju said there were no safety gear for passengers in the trawler, typical of all trawlers in the area.

Mahbub, a trader, said Abdul Halim, a trawler owner of Madhyanagar ghat, rented the vessel. The trawler was not meant to carry passengers and that it usually carried paddy during the harvest seasons.

Monir Hossain, elder brother of deceased Lucky, said her sister along with three children was going to visit his other sister in Bausi of Netrakona.

But his sister and her two children left them forever, said a crying Monir.

Lucky's son Towfique, a sixth-grader, survived.

Quoting Towfique, he said after the collision, Towfique and five others got trapped inside the hull of the overturned vessel, which was still afloat. Hearing their screams, boatmen nearby rushed to the spot and rescued them cutting into the hull, said Monir.

He added that Lucky was the youngest among their seven siblings.

Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona Kazi Abdur Rahman and Superintendent of Police Akbar Ali Munshi visited the spot.

The victims' family members demanded proper investigation into the incident to bring the wrongdoers to book.

Police arrested five people of the sand-laden trawler in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Netrakona district administration formed a three-member committee to probe the incident and it has been asked to submit the report within seven days.

The district administration gave Tk 10,000 to each family of the nine victims, while victim Hamida's family was given Tk 20,000.

It could be a turning point

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to prevent the acts of genocide.

The situation, however, has deteriorated after the order.

The ICC is also investigating the issue of forcible displacement of Rohingyas from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Myanmar denied access to the ICC, saying it is not a part of the Rome Statute.

Analysts said this is the first time the perpetrators have been held. The statements from the Myanmar soldiers will be important factors to prosecute Myanmar officials responsible for the genocide.

The New York Times reported that on Monday the two men, who fled Myanmar last month, were transported to The Hague. Regional rights body, Fortify Rights, said as a state party to the Rome Statute, Dhaka notified the ICC of the presence of the two former soldiers.

Payam Akhavan, a Canadian lawyer representing the Gambia in ICJ, said the two men had appeared at a border post requesting the protection of the government and had confessed to the mass murder and rape of Rohingya civilians in 2017.

"All I can say is that those two individuals are no longer in Bangladesh," he told Reuters.

Comments from Bangladesh authorities were not available.

A statement from the ICC Prosecutor's Office said, "The office does not publicly comment on speculations or reports regarding its ongoing investigations, neither does the office discuss specifics of any aspect of its investigative activities."

Genocide researcher Ahmed Ziauddin said taking the two men to the ICC's custody requires the judges' permission and the procedure should be open. However, the ICC prosecution can hold them confidentially for the sake of investigation.

Fortify Rights said it obtained and analysed two videos showing the confessions of Private Myo Win Tun of Myanmar Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 565 and Private Zaw Naing Tun of LIB 353.

These LIBs were operational in the Rakhine State during the military-led "clearance operations" against Rohingya civilians in 2016 and 2017.

Zaw Naing Tun, 30, confessed to killings, burying bodies in mass graves, and other crimes against Rohingya Muslims in five villages of Maungdaw Township during the 2017 "clearance operations."

Myo Win Tun described his involvement in killing Rohingya women, men, and children, and he admitted to raping women in Taung Bazar village and surrounding villages in Buthidaung Township in September 2017.

The soldiers provided the names and ranks of 19 direct perpetrators from the Myanmar Army, including themselves, as well as six senior commanders whom they claim ordered or contributed to atrocious crimes against Rohingya.

Both men separately claimed to be acting on orders from senior commanders to "exterminate all [Rohingyas]," to "shoot all that you see and that you hear," and to "kill all" Rohingyas in specific areas.

Significantly, both men were operational in two separate townships, simultaneously following orders under different commanders, which may indicate operational consistency between battalions, coordination, and intent to commit genocide, Fortify Rights said.

The Arakan Army -- an ethnic armed group currently engaged in armed conflict with the Myanmar Army in the Rakhine State -- filmed Myo Win Tun's confession on July 23, 2020 and filmed Zaw Naing Tun's confession on July 8, 2020.

The filmed confessions appear to be credible, said Fortify Rights. The information described in the confessions is consistent with the human rights documentation of the 2016 and 2017 Myanmar Army-led "clearance operations". These two men may be directly responsible for killing up to 180 Rohingya civilians, Fortify Rights said.

These confessions demonstrate that the Myanmar Army is a well-functioning national army operating with a specific and centralised command structure, said Matthew Smith, chief executive officer at Fortify Rights.

Prof Imtiaz said the two soldiers will be a great source of information on the genocide. It will help Myanmar's civil society and intellectuals realise that they need to seek punishment for those responsible.

It will also substantiate the case at the ICJ and another case at an Argentine court, he added.

"The big powers, who are friends of Myanmar and speak of human rights and democracy, will now consider seriously putting pressure on Myanmar," Imtiaz said.

Ahmed Ziauddin said the ICC usually doesn't prosecute such low-ranked soldiers but those who decide and order the massacres. It is uncertain whether the ICC would prosecute them or hold them only for the sake of investigation.

"However, the information gathered from the two soldiers will be invaluable. It will help the ICC catch the conspirators. This will also give strong message to Myanmar and the rest of the world."

বাংলাদেশ পাটকল করপোরেশন

১১৫-১২০, আদমজী কোর্ট, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় প্রিন্টিং প্রেস এবং ইলেক্ট্রনিক মিডিয়া তালিকাভুক্তকরণের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ।

বাংলাদেশ পাটকল করপোরেশন (বিজেএমসি) এর বিভিন্ন পাবলিকেশন ও প্রচার প্রচারণামূলক কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য প্রিন্টিং প্রেস এবং ইলেক্ট্রনিক মিডিয়ার নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলীর আলোকে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলী:

১। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নিজস্ব প্যাডে সিলগালা খামে **আগামী ২৩/০৯/২০২০ইং** তারিখ বিজেএমসি'র জনসংযোগ বিভাগে রক্ষিত বাক্সে দুপুর ১২.০০ টার মধ্যে আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে এবং ঐ দিনই দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় আবেদনসমূহ উপস্থিত প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে খোলা হবে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

২। প্রিন্টিং প্রেস এবং ইলেক্ট্রনিক মিডিয়ার ক্ষেত্রে পৃথক পৃথক আবেদন করতে হবে।

৩। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের ফি হিসেবে প্রতিটির জন্য ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা বাংলাদেশ পাটকল করপোরেশন বরাবর পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট হিসেবে আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

৪। বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে (দরপত্রের সাথে প্রমানক দাখিল করতে হবে)।

৫। দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ও আয়কর সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

৬। পিপিআর ২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল কার্যাদি সম্পন্ন হবে এবং সরকারের বিধি মোতাবেক সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্স কর্তন করা হবে।

৭। উল্লেখ্য যে, আগামী ০১ বছরের জন্য এ তালিকা বলবৎ থাকবে।

৮। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

৯। শর্তে উল্লেখ নেই এমন যে কোন পরিস্থিতিতে বিজেএমসি কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১০। ইতোমধ্যে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহকে পুনরায় অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতায় নতুন শর্তে পুনরায় তালিকাভূক্ত হতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, বিজ্ঞাপনটি বিজেএমসি'র ওয়েব সাইটে www.bjmc.gov.bd তে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিজেএমসি নং:- ১৫ তারিখঃ ০৭/০৯/২০২০ইং ব্যবস্থাপক (জস)